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New Orleans Pounds Oakland In NFL Preseason Play

While its unwise to put too much importance on NFL preseason performances, its hard not to be impressed with the New Orleans Saints offense. In particular, its impossible to not be impressed with the play of starting QB Drew Brees. Brees played only three series against the Oakland Raiders on Saturday night, but that was enough--by the time he left the Saints led 21-0 en route to a 45-7 thrashing on their hosts. New Orleans improved to 3-0 on the NFL preseason, while the Raiders dropped to 1-2.

All Brees did in only three series was roll up 179 yards on 14 of 17 passing and three touchdowns. After the game, he was pleased with the performance of his offense:

"I just felt like we accomplished what we wanted to there with regards to playing with our tempo and our intensity. We were able to get into a rhythm. When you walk away with three touchdowns on three possessions, that's what you want to do."

Brees was aided by the return of last years leading receiver, Lance Moore. Moore had shoulder surgery in the offseason and was excited to be back on the field:

"I felt great. I felt like I hadn't missed a lot. It was great being out there, getting hit and having fun in the game."

Tight end Jeremy Shockey was pleased with the effort, and said that the team was in Northern California to play football and not due to oenophilia:

"It looked good on the scoreboard but let's look at it in the film room. We came all the way to California not for the wine but to get some good work in.

In the Oakland locker room, the mood was somber. Raiders QB JaMarcus Russell was especially upset by the lopsided loss:

"Everything that could have possibly went wrong, went wrong today. It was very embarrassing today. It was disrespectful to our fans, ourselves and our family to go out and perform that way."

While the Saints scored almost at will against the Raiders porous defense, tight end Zach Miller was more concerned with the sputtering offense:

"I've never felt so lousy after a game, period. The way our offense played was embarrassing so we're going to fix it."

The Raiders will look to conclude the NFL preseason with a better effort as they travel to the Pacific Northwest to play the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday. New Orleans will host the Miami Dolphins on the same night.

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